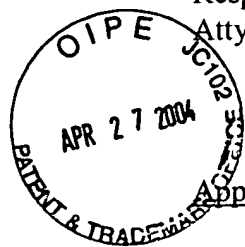


Ser. No. 09/804,975

Response Accompanying Request for Continued Examination of 30 April 2004

Atty Docket No. 117163-17



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mueller

Examiner: Stewart, A.J.

Ser. No.: 09/804,975

Art Group: 3738

Title: STENT

Filed: 13 March 2001

Date: 27 April 2004

RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

This paper is filed as a Preliminary Amendment to the Request for Continued Examination that is filed in response to the final rejection made on 30 October 2003. No fees are believed to be due for excess claims. Please charge Deposit Account 15-0450 for any fee deficiency.

This response is made in the format of the revised 37 CFR 1.121, as now in effect.

The response has the following parts:

Amendments to the Specification – beginning on page 2;

Amendments to the Claims – beginning on page 3;

Amendments to the Drawings – none made; and

Remarks – beginning on page 10.

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